

NOTICE OF A COLLECTION OF STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM PATAGONIA.  
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The small collection of stone weapons and implements which I have the honour to exhibit to the Society is from an ancient dwelling and burial-place on the banks of the Rio Negro in South America. It consists of a number of spear- and arrow-heads, chiefly of flint, two boring implements or awls of flint, and what seems a fragment of a third; two stone balls of the *bolas*, of sandstone, with grooves round the circumference; a small ball of sandstone, with a small shallow cup-shaped hollow worked in one side; a disc of sandstone pierced in the centre by a hole; and a pestle and mortar rudely fashioned into shape from a natural boulder.

The spear-heads are only distinguished from the arrow-heads by their larger size, rougher finish, and thicker stem. They vary from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length, and are made in various materials, such as flint, flinty slate, chert, and obsidian. The largest specimens are worked to a broad rounded point, and have a flat tang or stem  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide, and a very slight recurvation of the barbs. This form passes into one which is more acutely pointed or triangular, but still with the same flat stem. One or two of the arrow-heads of this form are notched or serrated on the edges. The long triangular form, with short, flat stem, passes into a form in which the stem is almost as long as the head of the arrow, which is lozenge-shaped and of considerable thickness. Another variety is of an elongated leaf-shape, truncated, and having the butt hollowed out for

the insertion of the shaft. This form includes both spear- and arrow-heads. One of the latter closely resembles in form the arrow-head figured in the Catalogue as one of several found on the floor of the chambered cairn of Get, near Whaligoe, Caithness. Several of the Patagonian arrow-heads are much smaller, and of a more distinctly triangular shape. One of the finest of these (fig. 1) is here figured of the natural size.



Fig. 1. Arrow-head of flint.

But the most remarkable of the flint implements are the awls or borers, of which there are two perfect specimens in the collection, and a fragment of a third. One of the perfect specimens is of brownish flint,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length and fully 1 inch in width across the base. It is beautifully worked into a spike projecting from a flattened butt, made to be grasped between the finger and thumb. The projecting part is fully 1 inch in

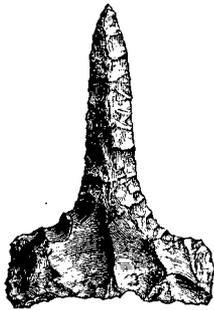


Fig. 2. Awl or Borer of flint.

length, and scarcely over  $\frac{3}{16}$ ths of an inch in thickness, brought to a fine tapering point. The other specimen (fig. 2), which is slightly larger, is made of obsidian. It measures fully  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in length, and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch across the butt. The broken fragment, if it be a fragment of a similar instrument, must have formed part of a borer of much larger size than this, as it measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length and almost  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch in width, being slightly quadrangular in the section.

The *bolas* balls are formed of sandstone. The largest is of reddish sandstone,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, very regularly worked to a spherical form, and smoothed on the surface, with a neatly-cut groove round the centre about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch in width and  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch deep. The other is of brownish sandstone, more elongated in shape, measuring 2 inches in its long diameter, and having a similar shallow groove neatly cut round the shorter circumference.

A smaller ball,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, has a cup-shaped hollow,  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch diameter and less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, scooped on one side.

A flattened oval disc of ferruginous sandstone,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in thickness, has a hole about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch diameter pierced through the centre. The hole has been worked from both sides, and narrows from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter at the surface to a  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in the centre of the thickness of the stone.

A mortar or rubbing stone, made of a water-worn block of lava,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches long,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, has an irregularly oblong cavity scooped out of its upper surface in the direction of its length, and smoothed apparently by use.

A cylindrical pestle of porphyritic sandstone,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in thickness, tapering to less than 2 inches, with ends abraded by use, and the whole surface smoothed, may have been used in connection with this or some similarly-fashioned mortar.